



**City of Miami Springs, Florida**

City Council Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 13, 2021 7:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers, 201 Westward Drive, Miami Springs, Florida

Virtual Council Meeting using Communications Media Technology Pursuant to  
Governor's Executive Order 20-69

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 7:05 p.m.

Present were the following:

Mayor Maria Puente Mitchell

Vice Mayor Bob Best

Councilwoman Jacky Bravo

Councilman Walter Fajet, Ph.D.

Councilman Victor Vazquez, Ph.D.

City Manager/Finance Director William Alonso

Assistant City Manager Tammy Romero

City Clerk Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria

City Attorney Jose Arango

2. **Invocation:** Offered by Vice Mayor Bob Best  
**Pledge of Allegiance:** Audience led the Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the Flag.
3. **Agenda / Order of Business: None at this time.**
4. **Awards & Presentations: None at this time.**
5. **Open Forum: The following members of the public addressed the City Council: No speakers at this time.**
6. **Approval of Council Minutes:**
  - A) August 16, 2021 – Budget Workshop
  - B) August 23, 2021 – Regular Meeting

**Vice Mayor Best moved to approve the minutes of August 16, 2021 Budget Workshop, and August 23, 2021 Regular Meeting. Councilman Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.**

7. **Reports from Boards & Commissions: None at this time.**

## 8. Public Hearings:

A) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And The City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Adopting The Proposed Millage Rate For Fiscal Year 2021-2022 In The Amount Of 7.2760 Mills, Which Is 0.92% Higher Than The Roll-Back Rate Of 7.2095 Mills, To Balance The General Fund For Fiscal Year 2021-2022; And Providing For An Effective Date

**City Manager William Alonso read the Resolution by title and explained that the millage rate is set at 7.2760 where the budget would be balanced. He also introduced the tuition reimbursement program developed by Human Resources Director, Bill Collins, which would budget \$30,000 towards the program, and the annual funding amounts can be re-visited each budget year; the program would be on a first come, first served basis until the total funding is exhausted, and each employee would be limited to \$2,500 in annual reimbursement. Mayor Mitchell opened the public hearing; there were no speakers. The public hearing closed.**

**Vice Mayor Best moved to approve a millage rate of 7.300. Councilman Vazquez seconded the motion, which failed 2-3 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best and Councilman Vazquez voting Yes; Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, and Mayor Mitchell voting No.**

**Councilman Fajet made a motion to set the millage rate at the rollback rate of 7.2095 mills and to include the tuition reimbursement program as part of the budget, any deficit would be covered by the reserves. Councilwoman Bravo seconded the motion, which carried 3-2 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes; Vice Mayor Best and Councilman Vazquez voting No.**

**After approving changes within the budget, the City Manager advised the City Council would have to vote on the Resolution with the new rollback rate. He read the Resolution with the rollback rate of 7.2095 mills.**

**After discussion, Councilwoman Bravo moved to approve the Resolution with change in millage as the rollback rate of. Councilman Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.**

B) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Adopting A Tentative Budget For The Fiscal Year Commencing October 1, 2021 And Ending September 30, 2022; Confirming Date Of Second Public Hearing; And Providing For An Effective Date

**City Manager William Alonso read the Resolution by title. Mayor Mitchell opened the public hearing; there were no speakers. The public hearing closed.**

**Councilwoman Bravo moved to approve the Resolution as read. Councilman Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.**

**9. Consent Agenda: (Funded and/or Budgeted):**

A) **Recommendation** – Recommendation by Public Works that Council approve an increase in the amount of \$15,000.00 to the City’s current open purchase order with Sunbelt Hydraulics, utilizing Miami Dade County under contract #FB-00399 (attached), for an overall amount not to exceed \$65,000.00 for parts & repairs on trucks, for the remainder of this fiscal year, as funds were budgeted in the FY20/21 Budget pursuant to Section §31.11 (E)(5) of the City Code

**Assistant City Manager Tammy Romero read the Recommendation by title in the Consent Agenda.**

**Vice Mayor Best moved to approve the Consent Agenda as read. Councilman Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.**

**10. Old Business: None at this time.**

**11. New Business:**

A) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Approving The South Florida Financial Crimes Strike Force Voluntary Cooperation Mutual Aid Agreement With The Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office; Providing For Authorization; Providing For Implementation; And Providing For An Effective Date

**City Manager William Alonso read the Resolution by title. Police Chief Guzman was present to address any questions from the City Council.**

**Vice Mayor Best moved to approve the Resolution as read. Councilman Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.**

B) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Accepting A State Appropriation Of \$1,500,000; Approving A State-Funded Grant Agreement With The Florida Department Of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Relating To The East Drive Stormwater And Roadway Improvement Project; Providing For Authorization; And Providing For An Effective Date

**City Manager William Alonso read the Resolution by title.**

**Vice Mayor Best moved to approve the Resolution as read. Councilman Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.**

**12. Other Business:**

**A) Report from Councilman Vazquez on the Miami-Dade League of Cities meeting of September 8th with an update on Vice Chair Gilbert's RTZ Plan**

Councilman Vazquez explained that he attended a Miami-Dade League of Cities meeting and Commissioner Oliver Gilbert was present and spoke of his proposed Rapid Transit Zone Plan. He stated that the Commissioner is still moving forward with his proposal, and that he has received pushback from many cities, but that increasing density in certain areas is a necessity in order to increase ridership on public transportation. He said it is a process and will be moving forward through various cities and then the County Commission. He also stated that the Commissioner reiterated that he does not want to change single-family neighborhoods, and confirmed that Miami Springs Bird Section and Abraham Tract were off the table.

**13. Reports & Recommendations:**

**A) City Attorney**

**City Attorney Jose Arango had no report at this time.**

**B) City Manager**

**City Manager William Alonso thanked the members of the City Council for attending the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 9/11 Ceremony on Saturday morning. He advised the City Council of the Haiti donation location, and vaccination locations, dates and times.**

**C) City Council**

**Vice Mayor Best thanked the City Manager for having the foresight of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ceremony of the 9/11 tragedy. The Vice Mayor thanked Bill Collins, Human Resources Director for the tuition reimbursement program. He also provided an update on the American Legion project for the War Memorial project.**

**Councilwoman Bravo thanked Police Chief Guzman for his time to do a walkthrough of the Police Department. She thanked the City Manager, Recreation Department and the Police department for the heartfelt 9/11 ceremony on Saturday. She thanked the Mayor for the letter she drafted to Commissioner Oliver Gilbert on the City's position on the RTZ Plan. Councilwoman Bravo thanked Bill Collins, Human Resources Director for the tuition reimbursement program and his contribution. She also**

**announced that the Woman's Club will be hosting "The Witches of Westward" event October 23<sup>rd</sup> and October 24<sup>th</sup>; tickets are available online.**

**Councilman Fajet thanked the City Manager and City Staff for a moving event on Saturday for the 9/11 ceremony. He also thanked the City Council for coming together to make the best decisions for the City.**

**Councilman Vazquez stated that he was happy to sit in the Business and Economic Development Task Force meeting last week. He also said that recently someone vandalized the mural on the United Teachers of Dade building, he said that vandalism will not be tolerated in the City. He stated that he visited the new fences on the east side of the City and said it has made a tremendous difference. He also stated that the War Memorial project will soon be accepting donations since a foundation has been established. He introduced his son to the Council, who is attending the meeting as part of an assignment.**

**Mayor Mitchell stated that the City Council has brought down the tax right in the City this year. She continues to be amazed on how the City assists others, such as the Haiti Relief donation site for needed items, there was a total of three truck loads. She reminded the public of the street naming ceremony for "Woman's Club Way" on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon.**

#### **14. Adjourn**

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria, MMC  
City Clerk



Adopted by the City Council on  
This 27th day of September, 2021.

  
Maria Puente Mitchell, Mayor

PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES 286.0105, THE CITY HEREBY ADVISES THE PUBLIC THAT IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THIS COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT ITS MEETING OR HEARING, HE OR SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT FOR SUCH PURPOSE, THE AFFECTED PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE CONSENT BY THE CITY FOR THE INTRODUCTION OR ADMISSION OF OTHERWISE INADMISSIBLE OR IRRELEVANT EVIDENCE, NOR DOES IT AUTHORIZE CHALLENGES OR APPEALS NOT OTHERWISE ALLOWED BY LAW.